



February 5, 2015

Written testimony of Jacob S. Bompastore , Administrator of Cherry Brook Health Care Center, Concerning

***Proposed H.B. No. 5586 AN ACT INCREASING NURSING FACILITY RATES.**

***Proposed H.B. No. 5812 AN ACT CONCERNING A COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR NURSING FACILITIES.**

***Proposed S.B. No. 231 AN ACT CONCERNING COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES FOR NURSING HOMES.**

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and to the members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Jacob S. Bompastore. I am the Administrator of Cherry Brook Health Care Center in Canton, Connecticut. Cherry Brook is a longstanding provider of nursing care in the community of Canton, Avon, Simsbury and surrounding towns. Cherry Brook is a 100 bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation center with 170 employees who has a history of great state surveys and is currently a 5 star facility.

First I want to publicly thank the state legislators who introduced these badly needed bills---House Republican Leader Klarides, and Representatives Perillo and Gentile, and State Senator Crisco. And thank you also to the Human Services Committee for including these bills at this public hearing.

The bills all get to the same issue. Medicaid Nursing facility rates have been basically flat since 2007, but costs have been dramatically rising. The bills address the fundamental problem of the escalating cost of providing high quality health care by increasing payments based on a cost of living adjustment. .

The message from the operator's point of view is simple----Our skilled nursing facilities need your help. We just can't continue on a path where no help is provided without strapping our employees and jeopardizing quality.

Here are some examples of what we are up against in our nursing facility while the rates have been stagnant:

- Increase of patient / resident acuity which has a direct impact on higher costs and time spent to provide high quality care
- Medications for Medicare A residents are more costly and many are not covered under the inclusive rate
- Costs of daily living; gas, natural gas, food, supplies, electricity, employee drug tests and criminal background checks have increased significantly

- Applied income is becoming a greater challenge to collect due to the overall economy and shared dependence on the residents social security and retirement funds

I am asking you to advance these bills and provide our nursing facilities the help they need to care for our residents.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Jacob S. Bompastore
Administrator
Cherry Brook Health Care Center